

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
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Remarks

Claims 21-42 are currently under examination in this application. Claim 21 is amended by adding the features of claim 24, and claim 24 is cancelled in this response. Claim 21 is also amended to take into account the Advisory Action mailed December 5, 2005. Claim 21 is amended to recite an apparatus comprising "only one supply voltage input". There are no other changes to the claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 112 and the Specification

Requirement to Provide Industry Standard EN 50254

Claim 34 is rejected as being indefinite because it refers to EN 50254, the specification does not provide all of the requisite information regarding EN 50254, and a copy of EN 50254 has not been provided. The IDS submitted on 11/14/2005 included a copy of the relevant portions of EN 50254, with translations thereof. This submission was relevant because it was required by the Examiner.

One further Amendment has been made to the specification with this Amendment after Final Action. That amendment is to include the specifics of industry standard EN 50254 in the specification. This change does not add new matter, but rather, meets the Examiner's requirement to include this information in the specification.

Applicant respectfully believes that inclusion of the above-mentioned details in the specification, as well as submission of a copy of the relevant portion of EN 50254, overcomes the Examiner's "112" rejections and should eliminate the rejections to the specification and claims set forth in the Office Action.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Advisory Action states that the references submitted failed to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e), and consequently, the IDS has been placed in the application file, but the

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information referred to therein has not been considered on the merits. Applicant notes that the IDS fee was paid with the submission of 11/14/2005. Further, Applicant states that the IDS was not submitted due to references being cited in any communication from a foreign patent office or in a counterpart foreign application. Nor can the Applicant state that no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. Applicant must explain the purpose underlying the IDS submission. The IDS was submitted, as required by the Examiner, for the relevant portions of the standard EN 50254, including a translation of the relevant portions. Further, a copy of European Patent 0 551 114 A1 (including a translation thereof) was submitted so that the Examiner would have a translation available for this European Patent, which was submitted in German in the original filing of this application. The appropriate \$180 IDS fee was paid with the IDS submission, and NO STATEMENT SHOULD BE REQUIRED. A statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) would be irrelevant to the IDS submitted with the Amendment After Final Action, given the above details. In consideration of these facts, Applicant respectfully notes that no statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) is necessary with the IDS payment that was made, and it would be impossible to make such a statement under this situation. The documents submitted with the IDS must be considered on their merits, especially since the Examiner required that the relevant portions of EN 50254 be submitted.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 21-23 and 25-33 are rejected as being anticipated by Ying.

Valid rejection under 35 USC 102 requires that each feature of a rejected claim be disclosed in a single reference. "For anticipation under 35 USC 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present." MPEP 706.02(a)

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The Examiner argues that Ying shows modules that are connected in line. Applicant believes that the Examiner interprets the subject matter of the claimed invention incorrectly. The subject matter of claim 1 relates to modules that are connected electrically in line. To emphasize this feature, claim 1 is amended by deleting the term "at least" before one supply voltage input.

Ying shows a network in which modules having a fault are switched off. In the Examiner's opinion, the modules are connected in line. But Ying's Figures show only one single line. This line symbolizes the connection to the bus (see Ying, column 14, lines 26-29). The electrical connection of the power supply is not explicitly shown. Accordingly, the modules could also be connected parallel, for example. There is no hint to an in-line electrical connection, as stated in the Office Action.

Additionally, Ying does not relate to a device that explicitly controls the power supply and switches off the power supply if a module has a short-circuit.

It is important to emphasize that according to the present invention, the power supply is totally disconnected and not the power supply of a single module only. It is not the object of our invention to keep the rest of the bus system in operation. It is the object of the present invention to enable an easier recognition of the reason and the place of a fault.

Further, Ying does not show an ascertaining device for ascertaining at least one electrical variable at the supply voltage output. Ying shows a CPU for controlling the network. But, Ying does not disclose that the power supply is monitored via this CPU.

Accordingly, the subject matter of present claim 1, as amended, is new.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 24 and 35-42 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Ying and Schminke.

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A further change in this Amendment After Final Action is to incorporate the features of claim 24 into claim 21. This feature relates to monitoring the supply current.

The Examiner appears to believe that Schminke relates to a device that disconnects network modules. Schminke does not relate to network components.

A person of ordinary skill in the art does not find a hint in Schminke leading to the subject matter of the present invention. Consequently, the present invention is not obvious over Ying and Schminke.

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An RCE transmittal is included herewith. Applicant respectfully requests that this Further Amendment After Final Action be entered and considered, together with the IDS submitted on 11/14/2005.

A second and third-month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested. PTO 2038 authorizing charging a credit card in the amount of \$900 is enclosed for the prescribed Large Entity two-month extension fee, as well as the \$790 RCE fee, for a total of \$1,690 to be charged to the credit card. It should be noted that a one month extension fee was paid with the Amendment After Final Action, filed 11/14/2005. Therefore, only the second and third month extension fees are due at this time.

Wherefore further consideration and allowance of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8 that this correspondence is being submitted to Mail Stop AF with RCE Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by facsimile transmission on January 12, 2006, fax number (571) 273 8300.



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